

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SCCT-01 SY-05 /075 W
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R 061446Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1382
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 279

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: FAULKNER CALLS FOR RETURN OF DETENTION AS BOMBS GO OFF

REF: BELFAST 277

1. SAYING VARIOUSLY THAT "SITUATION IS WORST IN IRELAND THIS CENTRY" AND "SECURITY SITUATION IS MORE DANGEROUS THAT AT ANY TIME SINCE 1971" FORMER PRIME MINISTER BRIAN FAULKNER CALLED AUGUST 5 FOR RETURN OF DETENTION. FAULKNER CHARGED GOVERNMENT WITH PURSUING "CONTAINMENT POLICY" WITH A RETURN TO "ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE" POLICY. HE SAID: "IT IS ALL VERY WELL TO DEPLORE THE NEED FOR DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL BUT SO LONG AS THREATS, INTIMIDATION AND MURDER ITSELF PREVENT WITNESS FROM COMING FORWARD, I CAN SEE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR PUTTING TERRORISTS OUT OF CIRCULATION." FAULKNER SUGGESTED REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SHOULD ALSO INTRODUCE DETENTION.

2. FAULKNER STAND SUPPORTED BY VANGUARD UNIONIST PARTY BUT OPPOSED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) AND ALLIANCE. GERRY FITT FOR SDLP SAID PROVISIONAL IRA WOULD FAVOR RETURN OF DETENTION SINCE IT WOULD MEAN RETURN OF POPULAR SUPPORT FROM MINORITY COMMUNITY FOR PROVISIONALS. OLIVER UNCLASSIFIED

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NAPIER OF ALLIANCE BRANDED DETENTION AS A FAILURE, CALLED FOR

PURSUIT OF TERRORISTS THROUGH COURTS AND TOTAL SUPPORT
OF COMMUNITY TO SECURITY FORCES.

3. WHILE LOYALIST POLITICIANS GENERALLY WITHHOLDING SUPPORT
FOR FAULKNER INITIATIVE THEY UNANIMOUS IN DEMANDING TOUGHER
SECURITY MEASURES. PROPOSALS RANGE FROM RING "REPUBLICAN
AREAS" AND RESTRICTING EGRESS TO INSTITUTING IDENTITY CARDS FOR
ALL IN PROVINCE.

4. FOUR BOMBS WITH VARIETY OF TARGETS EXPLODED BELFAST AUGUST
5. TARGETS WERE A GOLF CLUB, A BOTTLED GAS DEPOT, A TIMBER YARD
AND A RESTAURANT INSIDE THE SECURITY BARRIER. ANOTHER GOLF
CLUB BLASTED IN DUNGANNON. TWO CIVILIANS ESCAPED WITH MINOR
WOUNDS FROM AMBUSH NORTH BELFAST EVENING AUGUST 5.

5. PROVISIONAL IRA LONDONDERRY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PORTRUSH
BOMB BLITZ (REFTEL.
SPICER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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